

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT:WHITE HOUSE DAILY PRESS BRIEFING - NOVEMBER 13,
1975

1. FOLLOWING ARE PORTIONS OF TRANSCRIPT, WHITE HOUSE
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING NOVEMBER 13, 1975:

Q. MAY I ASK TWO QUESTIONS ON THE CHINA TRIP? WHY
HAS IT BEEN DECIDED THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL GO TO PEKING
ONLY? I KNOW HE HAS VISITED THE GREAT WALL AND OTHER
PLACES ON PREVIOUS TRIPS.

SECONDLY, HAS HE HAD ADVANCE GUARANTEE THAT HE WILL SEE
CHAIRMAN MAO?

MR. NESSEN: LET ME ANSWER THE LAST PART FIRST. ON THE
SUBJECT OF CHAIRMAN MAO, WE TAKE THIS VISIT SERIOUSLY
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ND WE BELIEVE THAT THE CHINESE DO ALSO. WE HAVE EVERY

REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL BE RECEIVED WITH COURTESY AND WITH ALL APPROPRIATE PROTOCOL. NATURALLY, WE ASSUME THAT THIS WOULD INCLUDE THE PRESIDENT MEETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS.

ON THE SUBJECT OF THE MEETING BEING LIMITED TO PEKING, I

THINK ONE THING TO SAY ABOUT THAT IS THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS BEEN TO CHINA BEFORE IN HIS ROLE AS REPUBLICAN LEADER OF THE HOUSE IN 1972. HE HAS BEEN TO A NUMBER OF PLACES OUTSIDE OF THE CHINESE CAPITAL.

THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA AGREED THAT THIS WOULD BE LARGELY A WORKING VISIT AND SO THERE WAS THE FEELING THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR EITHER A LONGER STAY OR TRAVELS OUTSIDE OF PEKING; THAT THE FOUR DAYS CONCENTRATED IN PEKING ARE AMPLE TIME FOR SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGES.

Q. WHEN FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON WENT TO CHINA THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF -- PARDON THE EXPRESSION -- "HOOPLA", A LOT OF PUBLIC CEREMONIES AND THAT SORT OF THING. WOULD YOU EXPECT THIS TO BE A LOWER KEY TRIP WITH MORE EMPHASIS ON DISCUSSIONS AND LESS EMPHASIS ON TRAPPINGS?

MR. NESSEN: I DON'T KNOW IF I WANT TO ACCEPT ALL YOUR DESCRIPTIONS OF PREVIOUS VISITS AND SO ON, BUT, AS I SAID TO RALPH, BOTH THE CHINESE AND THE UNITED STATES HAVE AGREED THIS IS LARGELY A WORKING VISIT AND THE TIME THERE WILL BE SPENT PRIMARILY IN SERIOUS EXCHANGES.

Q. RON, SHOULD I TAKE IT FROM YOUR ANSWER THAT YOU ASSUME HE WILL BE MEETING WITH PEOPLE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS BUT YOU HAVE NOT BEEN ASSURED HE WILL SEE CHAIRMAN MAO?

MR. NESSEN: WE ASSUME HE WILL BE MEETING WITH PEOPLE AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, BOB. I JUST DON'T THINK IT IS A NORMAL DIPLOMATIC ENDEAVOR TO DEMAND THAT YOUR HOSTS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIGN SOME KIND OF PROMISE IN ADVANCE.

Q. YOU WOULDN'T PUT OUT A SCHEDULE SAYING 8:00 TO 8:30 HERE, AND 9:30 TO 10:00 MEET WITH CHAIRMAN MAO?

MR. NESSEN: I THINK THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE MADE THE CHINA TRIP BEFORE KNOW THAT IF YOU GET THE SCHEDULE BY 5 A.M. OF THE DAY, YOU ARE LUCKY.

Q. I AM NOT TALKING ABOUT THE PRESS SCHEDULE. I AM .
TALKING ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S AGENDA.

MR. NESSEN: I AM TALKING ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S SCHEDULE,
TOO. IF HE GETS THE SCHEDULE BY THE EARLY MORNING HOURS
OF THE NEXT DAY --

Q. THERE IS NO SPECIFIC AGENDA OR SPECIFIC SCHEDULE
OF WHAT HE WILL BE DOING EACH DAY?

MR. NESSEN: NOT YET. AS YOU KNOW, THE ADVANCE TEAM
HASN'T GONE YET.

Q. THEN THERE HAS BEEN NO DIRECT COMMUNIQUE FROM MAO
TO THE EFFECT HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH THE
PRESIDENT DURING HIS TRIP?

MR. NESSEN: WE HAVE OBVIOUSLY HAD COMMUNICATIONS BACK AND
FORTH WITH THE CHINESE AND, AS I SAID, WE OBVIOUSLY ASSUME
HE WILL BE MEETING AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS.

Q. A DIRECT COMMUNIQUE FROM MAO WAS THE QUESTION.

MR. NESSEN: I DON'T THINK IT IS NORMAL TO SPELL OUT WHO
SIGNS THE COMMUNIQUE, RUSS.

Q. BUT THERE IS NO SPECIFIC AGENDA THUS FAR ON WHO HE WILL
BE MEETING WITH?

MR. NESSEN: THERE IS NO SPECIFIC SCHEDULE FOR ANY OF THE
DAYS IN CHINA BECAUSE THE ADVANCE TEAM HASN'T GONE YET.

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Q. HOW ABOUT MRS. FORD? IS SHE GOING TO BE TOURISTING?

MR. NESSEN: I DON'T HAVE A FULL LIST OF WHO IS GOING
YET, FRANK.

Q. HAVE YOU SAID WHETHER OR NOT SHE IS GOING?

MR. NESSEN: I HAVEN'T SAID BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW.

Q. RON, WILL AMBASSADOR BUSH COME BACK HERE TO FLY OVER
WITH THE PRESIDENT?

MR. NESSEN: THAT IS ONE DETAIL I DON'T KNOW.

Q. SOMEBODY INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING SAID THERE WILL BE

PEOPLE DISAPPOINTED BECAUSE THERE WILL BE A REDUCED
PRESS ENTOURAGE ON THIS TRIP. CAN YOU GIVE US ANY IDEA
IF THERE WILL BE REDUCED PRESS?

MR. NESSEN: WE HAVEN'T REALLY GOTTEN INTO THE QUESTION
OF NUMBERS YET. I THINK THERE IS SOME INDICATION THAT
THE CHINESE GENERALLY PREFER TO HAVE THE TRIP HANDLED
AS IT WAS IN 1972 BY THE FORMER PRESIDENT. I THINK SOME

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OF THE CONSIDERATIONS HAVE CHANGED.

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE TV NETWORKS, FOR INSTANCE, NO
LONGER USE FILM AND WOULD NOT NEED TO HAVE FILM PROCESSORS
AND FILM EDITORS. I THINK PROBABLY THE INTEREST BY
PEOPLE WHO ASKED TO GO ON THAT TRIP WHO HAVE NEVER BEFORE
OR NEVER SINCE GONE A PRESIDENTIAL TRIP WILL BE SOMEWHAT
LESSENED. I DON'T ANTICIPATE A MAJOR PROBLEM WHEN IT
COMES TO THE NUMBER OF REPORTERS THAT WANT TO GO. KISSINGER

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